

REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO COMPOSTING

“Agricultural land” means cultivated land for the production of crops or used for raising livestock. COMAR 15.18.04.01B (1).

“Agricultural operation” means any farming operation devoted to the production for sale of crops or animals, including, but not limited to, fruits, vegetables, meat, poultry and dairy products, nuts, tobacco, aquaculture, nursery and floral products, and trees. COMAR 15.18.04.01B (2).

“Compost” means a stabilized organic product produced by the controlled aerobic decomposition process in such a manner that the product may be handled, stored, and applied to the land or used as a soil conditioner in an environmentally acceptable manner without adversely affecting plant growth. COMAR 15.18.04.01B (5).

“Composting facility” means a facility where solid waste or organic material is processed using composting technology, including: (a) Physical turning; (b) Windrowing; (c) Aeration or other mechanized handling of organic matter. COMAR 15.18.04.01B (8).

Solid Waste. (a) “Solid waste” means any garbage, refuse, sludge, or liquid from industrial, commercial, mining, or agricultural operations or from community activities. (b) “Solid waste” includes scrap tires and organic compostable materials, but does not include solid or dissolved material in domestic sewage or in irrigation return flows or compost as defined in this chapter. COMAR 15.18.04.01B (27).

Composting facility operator certification requirements are found at COMAR 15.18.04.03 (who you have to be to run a composting operation).

Compositing facility operator requirements are found at COMAR 15.18.04.04 (how you have to run the composting operation).

STATE LAW REQUIREMENTS APPLICABLE TO WOOD WASTE RECYCLING

Natural wood waste. -- (1) "Natural wood waste" means tree and other natural vegetative refuse. (2) "Natural wood waste" includes tree stumps, brush and limbs, root mats, logs, and other natural vegetative material. Md. Code Ann., Environment Art., § 9-1701 (j).

Natural wood waste recycling facility. -- (1) "Natural wood waste recycling facility" means a facility where recycling services for natural wood waste are provided. (2) "Natural wood waste recycling facility" does not include a collection or processing facility operated by: (i) A nonprofit or governmental organization located in the State; or (ii) A single individual or business that provides recycling services for its own employees or for its own recyclable materials generated on its own premises. Md. Code Ann., Environment Art., § 9-1701 (k).

“Recycling services” means the services provided by those engaged in the business of recycling, including the collection, processing, storage, purchase, sale, or disposition of recyclable materials. COMAR 26.04.09.02B (9).

“Recycling” means any process in which materials that would otherwise become solid waste are collected, separated, or processed and returned to the marketplace in the form of raw materials or products. COMAR 26.04.09.02B (8).

Under the State Department of the Environment Regulations applicable to natural wood waste, “Composting” means the process in which natural wood waste is aerobically decomposed under controlled conditions to yield a humus-like product. COMAR 26.04.09.02B (1).

Conditions for operation of a wood waste recycling facility:

- (1) A natural wood waste recycling facility may accept only natural wood waste.
- (2) A natural wood waste recycling facility shall be operated in a manner that prevents health hazards and minimizes nuisances. Discharges to air or waters of the State shall be limited to discharges allowable under permits governing solid waste disposal, water pollution control, or air pollution control. Dust resulting from the operations shall be controlled at all times.

(3) Adequate personnel and equipment shall be maintained at all times to ensure proper operation and prompt attention to correct problems associated with the construction and maintenance of a natural wood waste recycling facility.

(4) The disposal site shall be under the supervision of a responsible individual present at the disposal site at all times during the operation of a natural wood waste recycling facility.

(5) Access to a natural wood waste recycling facility shall be controlled at all times, and entrances shall be adequately closed when the site is not in operation.

(6) Suitable measures to prevent and to control fires at a natural wood waste recycling facility shall be provided.

(7) A person may not burn wood waste at a natural wood waste recycling facility except as permitted by the Department or, when applicable, by the local governmental authority.

(c) Additional conditions; permit system established. --

(1) The Secretary may by regulation establish additional conditions under which a person may operate a natural wood waste recycling facility.

(2) On or before July 1, 1992, the Department shall adopt regulations to establish a permit system for natural wood waste recycling facilities.

(d) Sections 9-334 through 9-342 and § 10-104 applied to enforce violations. -- The provisions of §§ 9-334 through 9-342 of this title and § 10-104 of this article shall be used and shall apply to enforce violations of this section.

(e) Exemption from permit requirement. -- A facility required to obtain a permit by the Department under Subtitle 2 of this title is not required to obtain a permit under this section.

Md. Code Ann., Environment Art., § 9-1708(b).